



British Columbia

Canine *Cryptococcus neoformans*

In April 1997, a 3-year-old, spayed female, collie crossbred was presented for examination of a submandibular mass. There was an ipsilateral, small, ulcerated mass on the lip and an ulcer on the buccal surface of the oral mucosa. Axillary, submandibular, and popliteal lymph nodes were also mildly to moderately enlarged. Multiple papules were observed on the skin of the head and neck. The only hematological abnormality noted was eosinophilia; clinical chemistry results were within the normal range.

Fine needle aspirates of the left and right popliteal lymph nodes and the submandibular mass had similar cytological features. Wright-Giemsa staining of smears of the aspirate demonstrated several clusters of spherical, basophilic, fungal organisms, measuring 10 to 15 µm including the capsule. The capsule was clear and homogeneous. The organisms stained pale pink with the periodic-acid Schiff reaction. The morphology, size, and staining characteristic of the organism were consistent with the dimorphic fungus *Cryptococcus*

neoformans (1). The few inflammatory cells present were predominantly macrophages, with low numbers of eosinophils and small lymphocytes. The granulomatous nature of the inflammatory response was characteristic of a fungal infection.

The diagnosis of cryptococcosis was confirmed by the presence of a positive antibody titer (1: >16384 using a latex agglutination test) and positive culture results for *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

The dog was treated with 10 mg/kg body weight of ketoconazole (Nizoral, Janssen Pharmaceutica, North York, Ontario), q24h, PO. Within 1 wk the papules had disappeared and the dog was exhibiting an increased energy level.

Cryptococcus has been previously diagnosed in cats from British Columbia, especially Vancouver Island. At the time of diagnosis, this dog was living on Vancouver Island but had recently made a trip to Calgary.

Reprints not available.

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References

1. Cowell RL, Tyler RD. Cutaneous and subcutaneous lesions. In: Pratt PW, ed. Cytology and Hematology of the Horse. 1st ed. Goleta: Amer Vet Publi, 1992: 29.

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Answers to the Occupational Health and Safety Quiz (concluded)

Les réponses du Test éclair sur l'hygiène et la sécurité du travail (fin)

risque, veuillez vous adresser à la Direction générale du transport des marchandises dangereuses, CANUTEC, Transport Canada, Ottawa; téléphone : (613) 992-4624 ou au bureau régional du transport des marchandises dangereuses le plus près de chez vous.

5. e — As with the handling of WHMIS-controlled substances, the training of employees in the appropriate procedure for safe shipment is an important part of the regulations. Training by the veterinarian in the specific hazards routinely shipped by the practice is considered adequate under the

law, when it is documented in writing and updated every 2 y.

- e — Comme c'est le cas pour les substances réglementées en vertu du SIMDUT, la formation des employés en ce qui a trait à l'expédition sécuritaire de marchandises est une composante importante de la réglementation. La formation donnée par le vétérinaire pour l'expédition de matières particulières est considérée comme adéquate en vertu de la loi; elle doit toutefois être con-signée par écrit et renouvelée à tous les 2 ans.